

**TRAFFIC AND PARKING BOARD PUBLIC HEARING  
JUNE 23, 2008**

**DOCKET ITEM:** 4

**ISSUE:** Issuance of Residential Parking Permits

**APPLICANT:** City of Alexandria

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION:** That the Traffic and Parking Board recommend to City Council the following changes in the City's residential permit parking program:

1. Allow nonresident owners to obtain temporary business parking permits;
2. Continue allowing home healthcare providers to obtain residential parking;
3. Clarify when temporary parking permits may be issued to residents of developments with special use permits.

**DISCUSSION:**

**1. Allow Nonresident Owners to Obtain Temporary Business Parking Permits**

City Code § 5-8-74 (4) allows residents in permit parking districts to obtain temporary permits for persons doing business at their properties. This proposal will extend the same authority to nonresident property owners.

The City's current residential permit parking policy is an issue for some nonresident property owners. Under the current city ordinance, nonresident owners are unable to obtain residential parking permits for their vehicles, for the vehicles of guests or visitors, or for the vehicles of persons performing work at their properties within the district. Accordingly, when hiring contractors to maintain or upgrade their properties (such as renovating a residential property before moving in), nonresident property owners must ask their tenants to obtain temporary business parking permits for the contractors. If a property is vacant, the nonresident property owner cannot obtain a temporary business parking permit for the contractor's vehicle, which may store the tools and equipment necessary to perform the maintenance or property upgrade.

This proposal will benefit the community by making it easier for nonresident owners to maintain their properties at a higher standard. The change applies to residential properties only, and still limits the number of temporary business parking permits to three per property.

**2. Continue Parking Permit Program for Healthcare Providers**

On June 21, 2005, City Council adopted Ordinance 4407, which authorized the issuance of one parking permit per residence for a healthcare provider who provides healthcare services at a property

in a permit parking district. To receive a permit, the applicant must provide certification from a medical professional that a permanent resident is receiving healthcare services at the residence, and pay a fee of \$50. The permit is valid for up to one year, with an October 5 expiration date.

At the time parking permits for healthcare workers were authorized, City Council also considered, but did not include, similar authorization for daycare providers. At the request of former Vice Mayor Andrew Macdonald in 2004, staff proposed amending City Code to allow issuance of one annual permit per residence for either a healthcare or daycare provider. This was referred to and considered by the Traffic and Parking Board in late 2004, which recommended to Council that permits be issued to healthcare workers only, finding no material distinction among daycare providers, nannies and tradespersons, and other commuters who desire to park close to their places of employment. The Board recommendation and an ordinance amending City Code to permit issuance of parking permits to healthcare and daycare providers were presented to Council in June 2005. Following public hearing, Council adopted an amended ordinance (Attachment 1) with all references to permits for daycare providers deleted. Staff reconsidered provisions for daycare providers as part of the current proposals; however, do not recommend that they be included at this time.

When authorizing issuance of temporary parking permits to healthcare providers, there was concern that the program may be abused. Accordingly, City Council directed that the program be implemented on a trial basis by including a sunset clause in the ordinance. The program has been well received and helps lower stress on those residents needing a healthcare provider. The one resident currently participating in the program has provided the necessary certification from a medical professional. Since it appears the program is being used in accordance with Council's intent, staff recommends removing the sunset clause and allowing the parking permit program for healthcare providers to become permanent.

### **3. Clarify Issuance of Temporary Parking Permits for Residential Developments with Special Use Permits**

To ensure that new residential developments comply with City standards and do not have an adverse impact on surrounding neighborhoods, developers must agree to conditions provided in development special use permits, which are ultimately approved by City Council. Parking requirements for the development are an essential condition of all special use permits. Although the special use permits generally prohibit residents of the developments from obtaining the City's residential parking permits, there are some differences on how visitor parking should be accommodated. Attachment 2 provides a comparison of the permit parking restrictions for residential developments located in the City's permit parking districts.

As shown on Attachment 2, some special use permits indicate that visitor parking will be provided on City streets. However, City Code § 5-8-74 (6) requires that "permits shall not be issued to persons who reside in a residential development which is subject to a special use permit, to the extent the residents, visitors, guests or business invitees within such development are excluded by the special use permit from eligibility for one or more of the permits described above in subsections (1), (2), (3) or (4)." The proposal seeks to clarify that while residents in developments with special use permits are not entitled to residential parking permits for their own vehicles, they can obtain

temporary guest, visitor and business parking permits, as long as the special use permit for their development provides that visitor parking will be provided on City streets. Accordingly, residents of Braddock Lofts, Samuel Madden Homes (Chatham Square) and Prescott will be eligible for temporary guest, visitor and business parking permits. Residents of Cromley Lofts will also be eligible for temporary guest, visitor and business parking permits since no parking spaces were provided by the development, and both residents and visitors must park on City streets. However, Cromley Lofts residents will have the additional stipulation that only one temporary parking permit can be issued per unit, as required for resident parking by the special use permit. Future special use permits should specifically indicate if visitor parking would be provided on City streets with temporary parking permits.

Attachments (2)

# **CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA**

**Public Hearing Meeting  
Tuesday, June 21, 2005 - - 4:00 p.m.**

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31. Public Hearing, Second Reading and Final Passage of an Ordinance to Amend the Provisions of the City Code to Allow Home Daycare and Health Care Providers to Obtain Permits to Park in Residential Permit Parking Districts. (#16, 6/14/05) **(ROLL-CALL VOTE)**

(A copy of the informal memorandum explaining the ordinance is on file in the office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 1 of Item No. 31, 6/21/05, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.

A copy of the ordinance referred to in the above item, of which each Member of Council received a copy not less than 24 hours before said introduction, is on file in the office of the City Clerk and Clerk of Council, marked Exhibit No. 2 of Item No. 31, 6/21/05, and is incorporated as part of this record by reference.)

**WHEREUPON**, upon motion by Councilman Macdonald and seconded by Vice Mayor Pepper, City Council moved approval of an ordinance to allow health care providers and home day care providers to obtain permits to park in residential permit parking districts.

Councilman Macdonald noted for the record that his mother has a health care worker at her home. He asked how the permit would be handled for people working shifts.

Finance Director Neckel noted that one permit would be given that would be moved from car to car. Mr. Neckel also answered questions on the permitting process, in response to questions from Council.

**WHEREUPON**, Councilman Macdonald amended the motion to delete all references to permits for day care providers from the ordinance, with a time limit of one year. Vice Mayor Pepper, as seconder of the motion, accepted the amendment. The motion carried unanimously by roll-call vote. The voting was as follows:

Macdonald "aye" Gaines absent  
Pepper "aye" Krupicka absent  
Euille "aye" Smedberg "aye"  
Woodson "aye"

The ordinance reads as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 4407

AN ORDINANCE to amend and reordain Section 5-8-74, Article F (PERMIT PARKING DISTRICTS) of Chapter 8 (PARKING AND TRAFFIC REGULATIONS) of Title 5 (TRANSPORTATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES) of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF ALEXANDRIA HEREBY ORDAINS:

Section 1. That Section 5-8-74 of the Code of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, 1981, as amended, be, and the same hereby is, amended and reordained to read as follows:

Section 5-8-74 Parking permits; issuance.

Except as provided in subsection (6), the city manager shall, upon payment of the fee provided for by this article, issue permits to natural, but not corporate, persons who reside in a dwelling located within the boundaries of a permit parking district authorizing the parking of motor vehicles in such district for more than the consecutive hour limitation in effect in the district, as follows:

(1) to persons who reside in a permit parking district or to persons who both reside in a dwelling located on a block adjacent to an existing permit parking district where parking on said block is controlled by time limits set by official signs or metered parking and lack adequate alternative nearby parking facilities available to them, as determined by the city manager or the manager's designee:

(a) one permit for each vehicle belonging to such persons for which the persons have paid all personal property taxes imposed thereon by the city and which displays a valid license windshield tag issued pursuant to the provisions of section 3-2-321 et seq. of this code. Such permits shall be valid from July 1 or, if later, the date of issuance through November 15 of the following year. Applicants for permits issued pursuant to this subsection shall provide proof of residence and, for each vehicle for which a permit is sought, a motor vehicle registration card issued by the division of motor vehicles and proof of payment of all personal property taxes and license taxes imposed thereon by the city; and

(b) one permit per residence for a health care provider providing health care services at the residence. Permits issued under this paragraph (b) are not vehicle specific and may be transferred to different vehicles, but the use of such permits other than by persons providing health care services at the residence or other than during such times as they are providing health care services at the residence (or are in the immediate process of coming or going from the residence in connection with providing health care services at the residence) is

prohibited. Such permits shall be valid for up to one year and will expire on October 5, annually. Applicants for permits issued pursuant to this paragraph (b) shall provide proof of residence, a notarized certification that a permanent resident is receiving health care services at the residence, and a written statement from a licensed medical professional that a permanent resident is receiving health care services at the residence. The provisions of this paragraph (b) shall expire on June 30, 2006, and no permit issued hereunder shall be valid after such date.

For permits issued to a person or renewed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection, there shall be imposed a fee of \$15 for the first vehicle, \$20 for the second vehicle, and \$50 for each additional vehicle. Any person who has been issued a permit for a vehicle pursuant to paragraph (a) of this subsection may obtain a replacement permit for use on another vehicle registered in such person's name, upon application on forms furnished by the city manager and presentation of the registration card for the vehicle for which the replacement permit is sought and pieces of the previously issued permit as proof that it was removed from the vehicle for which the fee was previously paid, accompanied by a fee of \$1. For permits issued to a person or renewed pursuant to paragraph (b) of this subsection, there shall be imposed a fee of \$50 per permit.

(2) to persons who are visitors at a residence within a permit parking district on the application of the resident, one permit for any vehicle used by such person during the visit, which permit shall be valid for a maximum of 30 days but shall not be renewed; provided, that permits may be issued to no more than two visitors to the same residence at the same time. A \$5 fee shall be charged for any permit issued pursuant to this subsection for a period of more than seven days.

(3) to persons who are guests at a residence in a permit parking district on the application of the resident, one permit for any vehicle used by such person while a guest at the residence, which permit shall be valid for a date certain or portion thereof; provided that the number of permits issued under this subsection shall not at any time exceed 50 percent of the number of parking spaces in which they are valid; provided further, that no permit shall be issued under this subsection except upon a showing by the resident making application therefor that during the hours for which the permit is to be issued his residence will be used and occupied in a manner which is both lawful and not inconsistent with the residential character of the permit parking district in which it is located, and unless it shall be found that the issuance of the permit or permits will not unduly impair traffic safety during the time of their validity; provided further, that, notwithstanding any provision of this subsection to the contrary, up to 10 self-validating guest permits shall be issued in any calendar month for the guests of any residence located in a permit parking district upon the application of a person residing in the residence. Any permit issued pursuant to this subsection may be limited to certain streets or portions thereof in the permit parking district for which

the permit is issued.

(4) to persons doing business with a resident of a permit parking district on the application of the resident, one permit for the vehicle used while doing business in the permit parking district; provided, that such permits may be issued to no more than three persons doing business at the same residence at the same time. No permit shall be issued pursuant to this subsection for a period longer than the time estimated by the resident to be required for completing the business transaction for which the permit is sought, and in no event shall any permit be valid for more than 30 days.

(5) whenever a holder of a permit issued under this section is no longer qualified to possess the permit, the permit shall be invalid and shall be returned to the director of finance.

(6) permits shall not be issued to persons who reside in a residential development which is subject to a special use permit, to the extent the residents, visitors, guests or business-invitees within such development are excluded by the special use permit from eligibility for one or more of the permits described above in subsections (1), (2), (3) or (4).

Section 2. That this ordinance shall become effective July 1, 2005.

## Residential Developments with Parking Permit Restrictions

Development	Use	Parking Permit Restriction	Resident Parking		Visitor Parking	
			Required	Provided	Required	Provided
<b>Backyard Boats</b> 108 Franklin St. SUP 2000-0024 June 17, 2000	28 units	No permits for residents (Condition 10)	56 spaces	81 spaces	24 spaces adjacent to units	10 on private street (Condition 3)
<b>Braddock Lofts</b> 713 N. Fayette St. SUP 2000-0021 September 16, 2000	40 units	No permits for residents (Condition 3)	80 spaces	92 spaces	To be provided on adjoining public streets	On-street
<b>Samuel Madden Homes (Chatham Square)</b> 409 N. Pitt St. SUP 2002-0029 December 14, 2002	152 units	No permits for residents (Condition 9)	294 spaces	294 spaces	46 to be provided on adjoining public streets	On-street
<b>Prescott</b> 1115 Cameron St. SUP 2004-0001 October 12, 2004	64 units	No permits for residents (Condition 13)	127 spaces	120 spaces	17	7 on-street
<b>Monarch</b> 1180 & 1100 Pendleton St. SUP 2003-0019 November 13, 2004	168 units, 16,000 sf retail	No permits for residents (Condition 20)	372 spaces	374 spaces	39 spaces	39 spaces
<b>Cromley Lofts</b> 1210 Queen St. SUP 2005-0050 June 21, 2005	8 units	One permit per unit (Condition 1)	14 spaces	None	2 spaces	None
<b>Meridian at Braddock</b> 1200 First Street and 950 N. Fayette Street SUP 2002-0018 October 19, 2002	480 units	No permits if area is ever included in a parking district (Condition 5)	695	560	No visitor parking required at time of DSUP approval	35 surface parking spaces in addition to garage parking